

Amendments to the Claims:

1) (Currently Amended) A method for the production of rails and similar products with a rolling plant, wherein the plant comprises a reversible intermediate working station, the intermediate working station comprising a first, a second universal stand and a two-high edging stand placed between said first and second universal stands, and placed at such a distance from each other that said bar can be held simultaneously in all three of said stands during rolling operations, wherein the intermediate working station is able to receive a pre-rough rolled bar from an appropriate upstream rough rolling station and to deliver it, after having worked it, to a downstream finishing station, placed at such a distance from said intermediate working section that, when said finishing stand works a finishing passage on said bar, said bar is not held in any of the said first universal, two-high edging and second universal stands the method comprising, in the order indicated, the following operations:

performing a second rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a first rolling passage in said second universal stand performed with a first reduction ratio comprised between 10% and 30%; and

performing a second rolling passage in said second universal stand with a reduction ratio comprised between around 10% and around 30%;

performing a second first-rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a first rolling passage in said first universal stand performed with a second reduction ratio comprised between 3% and 25%, wherein the first reduction ratio is greater than the second reduction ratio;

performing a second rolling passage in said first universal stand with a reduction ratio comprised between around 3% and around 20%;

performing a third rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

performing a rolling passage in said finishing station.

- 2) (Cancelled)
- 3) (Cancelled)
- 4) (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said the first reduction ratio with which is performed said first rolling passage in said second universal stand

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is equal to around 20%, and said the second reduction ratio with which is performed said first rolling passage in said first universal stand is equal to around 10%.

5) (Cancelled)

6) (Cancelled)

7) (Cancelled)

8) (Cancelled)

9) (Cancelled)

10) (Cancelled)

11) (Cancelled)

12) (Currently Amended) The method according to Claim 1~~claim 11~~, comprising a series of operations substantially constituted of the following rolling passages, in the sequence indicated:

 said second rolling passage in said two-high edging stand on exiting from a said pre-rough rolling station;

 said first rolling passage in said second universal stand;

 said second rolling passage in said second universal stand;

 said first rolling passage in said two-high edging stand;

 said first rolling passage in said first universal stand;

 said second rolling passage in said first universal stand; stand;

 said third rolling passage in said two-high edging stand; and stand,

 a rolling passage in said finishing station.

13) (Cancelled)

14) (Cancelled)

15) (Cancelled)

16) (Cancelled)

17) (Currently Amended) A rolling plant for implementing a method according to claim 1, said plant comprising a reversible intermediate working section able to receive a pre-rough rolled bar from an appropriate upstream rough rolling station and to supply it, after having worked it, to a downstream finishing station, wherein said intermediate working section comprises, located placed in succession along at least one rolling axis, a first universal stand and

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a two-high edging stand, comprising a second universal stand located~~placed~~, along said at least one rolling axis, such that said two-high edging stand is placed between said first and second universal stands,~~stands~~ wherein said three stands are placed at such distances from each other that said bar can be held simultaneously in all three ~~of~~ said stands during rolling operations,~~operations~~ wherein the finishing station comprises in turn a finishing stand placed at such a distance from said intermediate working section that, when said finishing stand works a finishing passage on said bar, said bar is not held in any of said three stands of said intermediate working section, wherein said three stands of said intermediate working section are placed one after the other, without interposition of further rolling stands.

18) (Cancelled)

19) (Cancelled)